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1982

breakthrough 1982



SOUTH CAROLINA
VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT

About The Cover:

Anne Rhodes works as a computer operator at Bankers' Mortgage Corporation in Florence, South Carolina. She and her husband have three children. But many people who know her don't realize that she has a severe disability.

Since childhood she has had a severe hearing impairment, an invisible physical impairment which has tremendous psychological impact on an individual's life. But she does not let this interfere with her role as wife, mother and career woman.

Because she was having multiple problems arising from her inability to hear sufficiently, she came to the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department for assistance. A medical evaluation revealed that she has a bilateral neurosensory deficiency, and she immediately began receiving counseling and guidance in helping her deal with her physical disability.

Her vocational training began with a basic typing course at Florence-Darlington TEC, followed by six months of on-the-job training in computer programming at Bankers' Mortgage. She then completed an IBM Data Programming II course at First National Bank in Florence, and was subsequently hired by Bankers' Mortgage.

So that she could communicate more adequately with her friends, family and coworkers, Vocational Rehabilitation assisted Anne with audiological evaluation and fitting of a hearing aide which she has used very successfully in combination with her lipreading skills. She is also able to use a telephone which has been equipped by her employer with an amplifier.

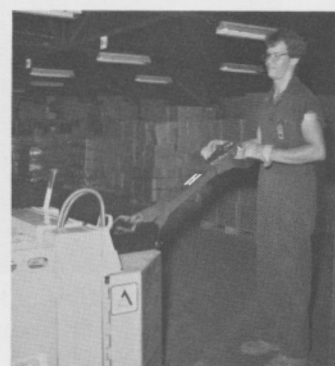
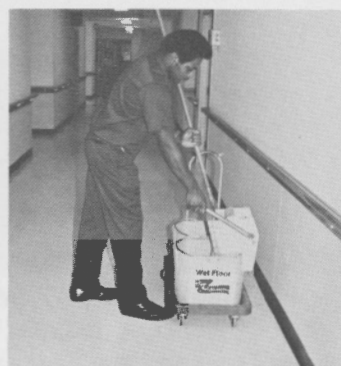
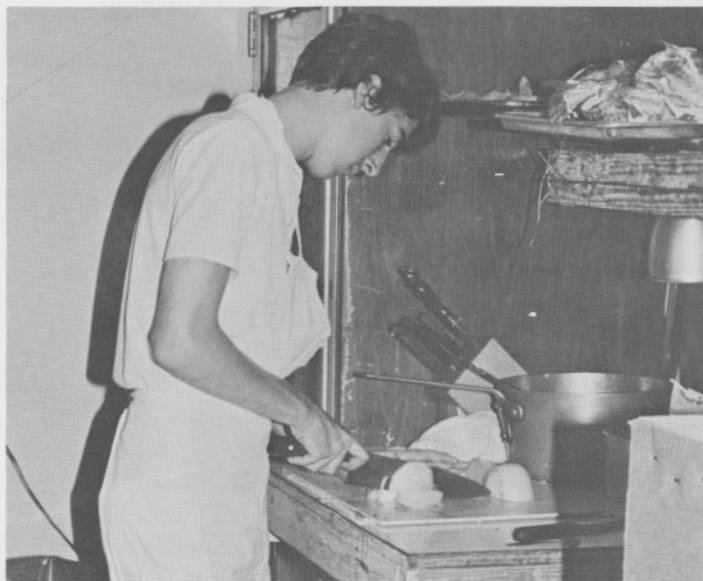
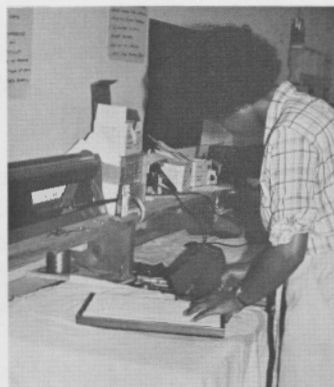
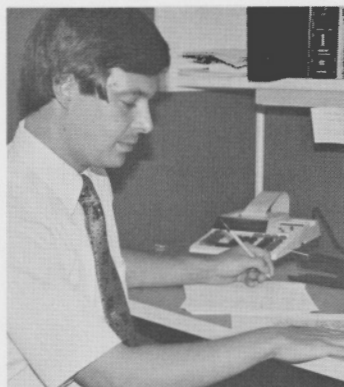
Bankers' Mortgage, Vocational Rehabilitation, and Anne are pleased with the results of a combined effort in finding successful employment for a person who at one time had serious doubts about her future.

Bankers' Mortgage has found a good employee, and Anne has found a good job!

South Carolina
Vocational Rehabilitation Department
presents

BREAKTHROUGH

1982





South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department



JOE S. DUSENBURY, Commissioner

301 Landmark Center • 3600 Forest Drive • Post Office Box 4945 • Columbia, South Carolina 29240

A MESSAGE TO CITIZENS OF SOUTH CAROLINA:

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department again this year received national recognition as a leader in the field of Vocational Rehabilitation. Through the years we have been identified as an innovator in the development of numerous programs for serving physically and mentally handicapped people, and we continue to accept the challenge of providing the best possible services to the citizens of our state.

Day by day, businesses and industry in South Carolina are awakening to the value of a program such as ours. Many businesses have already realized the benefit of sub-contract arrangements with our Vocational Rehabilitation Centers, which have the capability of adapting their labor forces for a myriad of projects, including assembly, sorting, packaging and mailing, all under stringent quality control. Then, as a result of the experiences gained by the clients in these programs, we are able to supply employers with a valuable source of qualified workers with a variety of skills and talents, placed in jobs only after careful consideration of the necessary qualifications. Having placement in appropriate employment as the goal of all Vocational Rehabilitation services, we are grateful to the business community for their support in these programs.

Having seen the value of our program in assisting people who have been dependent on society to move into a state of independence, the South Carolina General Assembly has been supportive during our struggle for survival as a rehabilitation program.

Community support has contributed significantly to the success of our programs. Realizing that our mission is impossible if we operate in a vacuum, we continue to search for new avenues of working within the framework of the community. We are constantly adapting our programs of services to meet the needs of the citizens of our state, and sincerely offer our contributions toward improving the quality of life for ALL who live in it.

Joe S. Dusenbury



J. S. Dusenbury
Commissioner
S. C. Vocational
Rehabilitation Department



The Honorable Richard W. Riley
Governor of South Carolina



E. Roy Stone, Jr.
Chairman
S. C. State Agency of
Vocational Rehabilitation

Board of Directors



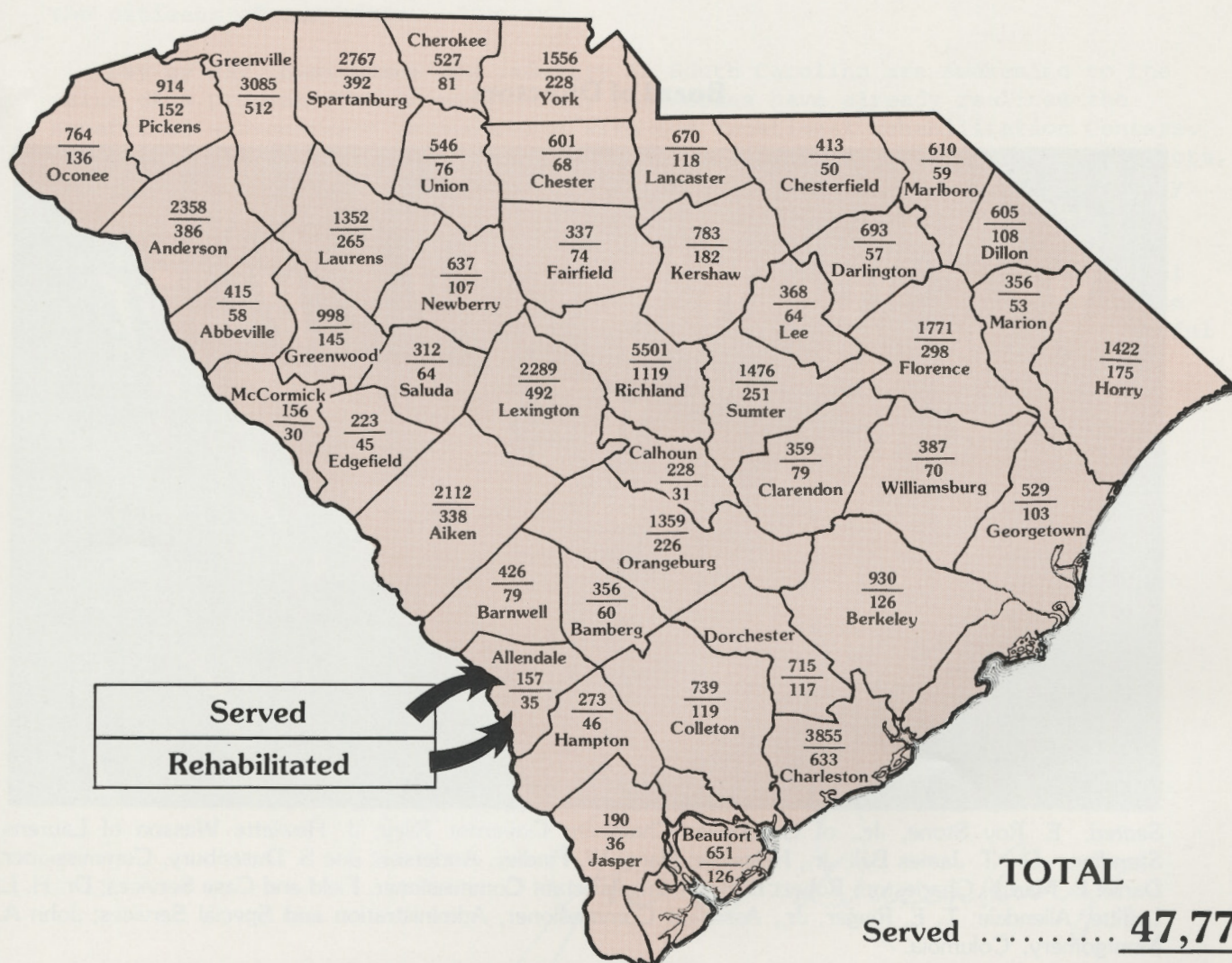
Seated: E. Roy Stone, Jr., of Greenville, Chairman; Governor Riley; J. Hewlette Wasson of Laurens.
Standing: Dr. T. James Bell, Jr., Hartsville; Harry W. Findley, Anderson; Joe S. Dusenbury, Commissioner; Daniel E. Martin, Charleston; Robert E. Brabham, Assistant Commissioner, Field and Case Services; Dr. H. L. Laffitte, Allendale; T. E. Ringer, Jr., Assistant Commissioner, Administration and Special Services; John A. Montgomery, Columbia.

Our Record of Service

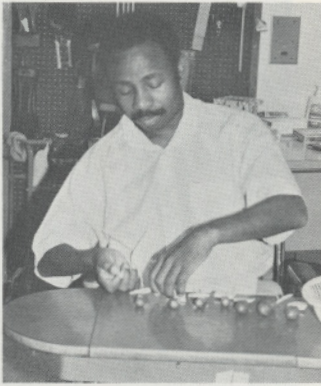
Vocational Rehabilitation offices around the state make services available to all South Carolinians with handicapping conditions which interfere with employment. Uniform services are provided in each of the offices operated by the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department.

In addition, counselors from these offices have itinerant points in outlying areas so that clients in more sparsely populated areas can benefit from the same services. Every effort is made to provide vocational rehabilitation services to ALL physically and mentally handicapped citizens of employment age in the state.

The map above shows a county breakdown of physically, mentally and emotionally handicapped individuals who were served by the Department during 1982. Rehabilitation is a continuous process, sometimes over a period of years; therefore, those "served" during 1982 may continue to be "served" by Vocational Rehabilitation in an attempt to prepare them for employment in the community in the future.



Statewide Programs and Facilities



Many individuals who are in service programs of other agencies and organizations begin receiving Vocational Rehabilitation services when it appears that they may be able to go into employment in the community. As a result of this vocational rehabilitation involvement, many who have been institutionalized and dependent on state programs for their livelihood are now working and self-sufficient taxpayers.

Programs are operated in cooperation with state agencies such as the Departments of Corrections, Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Youth Services, as well as with the Medical University, Cedar Spring Facility for the Deaf, and the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School.

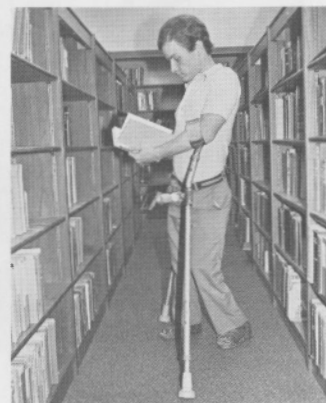
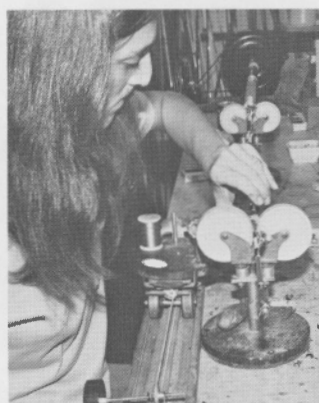
Vocational Rehabilitation also independently operates other facilities of a statewide nature to meet the specialized needs of individuals with particular types of disabilities, The Vocational

Rehabilitation Comprehensive Center provides physical therapy, occupational therapy, activities of daily living, and speech therapy to severely handicapped individuals to help them become more independent and ready for employment. Palmetto Center and Holmesview Center are residential facilities for the treatment of alcoholism.

The same type of services are provided to eligible individuals within these programs as are available to those served through the area offices. The cooperation between Vocational Rehabilitation and the agencies with which it works means maximum mileage from tax dollars.

Vocational Rehabilitation staff working within the various programs have specialized knowledge of the problems incumbent with the disability groups with which they work.

An Array of Services



A disabled person may need one or more services offered through the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department in order to prepare for his return to gainful employment.

COUNSELING AND GUIDANCE is a continuous service provided to all clients through the entire rehabilitation process. The counselor and client develop an individualized program of services according to the needs of the client, his interests and aptitudes, with the ultimate goal of gainful employment upon completion of services.

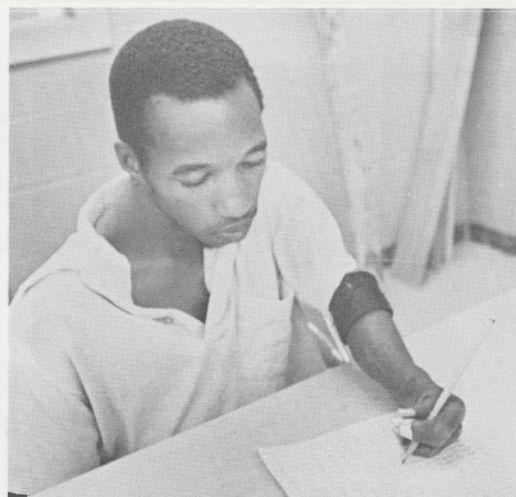
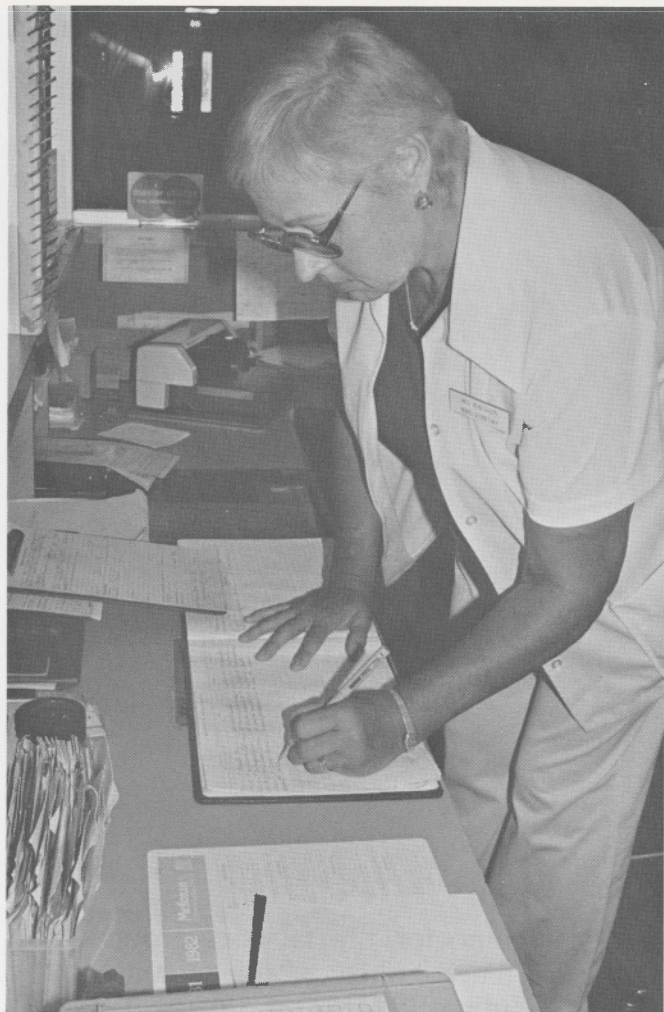
A thorough **EVALUATION** of the client's medical, social, psychological and vocational needs provides insight into potential for employment, as well as the nature and scope of services needed to lead the individual toward a suitable occupation.

All rehabilitation services contribute toward **JOB PLACEMENT**, and no client is considered rehabilitated until he begins working on a job suited to his vocational and physical ability. Every client receives **FOLLOW-UP** services to ensure that his rehabilitation is successful and that both he and the employer are satisfied.

Some clients may require additional services prior to job placement, such as adjustment services, training, provision of artificial appliances or other related services.

ADJUSTMENT SERVICES provided within the vocational rehabilitation program assist the client in learning to deal with day-to-day situations and problems, as well as getting along in the community and on the job.

for the Handicapped



Wheelchairs, limbs, braces, hearing aids, and other kinds of **ARTIFICIAL APPLIANCES** may be provided for clients who would otherwise be unable to perform satisfactorily on the job.

A client may also receive maintenance and/or transportation payments to allow him to get maximum benefits from other aspects of his rehabilitation program.

TRAINING in vocational and technical schools, business schools, as well as in colleges and universities may be sponsored by Vocational Rehabilitation, in keeping with the client's employment goals, if he is unable to obtain assistance through other sources. This equips the client with skills to improve his salability on the job market.

In addition, occupational licenses, tools, equipment and supplies may be included as a part of Vocational Rehabilitation services to increase the individual's prospects of successful employment or self-employment.

All services are expected to assist the client in his search for suitable employment as it did last year for 8,069 handicapped South Carolinians.

In order to qualify for services through the Department, a person must have a physical or mental disability which for that individual constitutes or results in a substantial handicap to employment and a reasonable expectation that vocational rehabilitation services may benefit the individual in terms of employability.

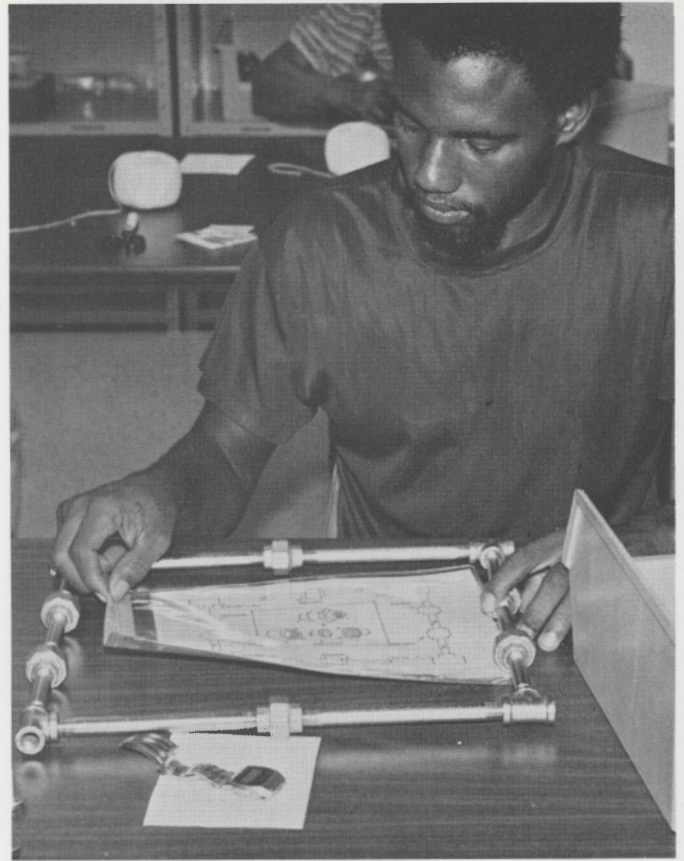
Rehabilitation and Business . . .



The success of the Vocational Rehabilitation program in South Carolina has resulted from the cooperation between the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department and business and industries across the state. All services through Vocational Rehabilitation are geared toward future employment for those in the program. But job placement — the ultimate goal of rehabilitation — would be impossible without the overwhelming support of businesses in the community.

The Department operates a network of Vocational Rehabilitation Centers in the state for provision of comprehensive evaluation and adjustment training services to handicapped citizens. The evaluation program in these Centers helps inventory each client's abilities and interests, in order to develop realistic vocational goals, as well as the services which will enable the client to reach them. The adjustment program helps the client in terms of personal, social and work skills.

These programs are made possible through subcontract work from business concerns in the community. Clients in the Centers work on job contracts from businesses and industry, simulating actual employment. They are paid for their work, based on their rate of production, while they learn how to get along on the job. Client earnings through job contracts amounted to \$1,593,965.



Total income for the facilities around the state through contract work amounted to \$2,734,824 during 1982.

There are nine Work Activity Center programs located within the Vocational Rehabilitation Centers to provide services to the severely mentally retarded citizens, in an attempt to take them out of institutions and prepare them for their return to the community. In this program, which is operated in cooperation with the South Carolina Department of Mental Retardation, the clients receive evaluation, personal and social adjustment, work adjustment, as well as on the job training and daily living classes.

The businesses and industries in South Carolina work in partnership with the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department in a program which is mutually beneficial; but more importantly, the program helps numerous handicapped citizens to reach self-sufficiency and independence through employment.

. . . Partners in Progress



"As business people, we have an obligation and a responsibility to employ the most capable, competent individuals possible in order to assure the continued financial success and integrity of our company. Our non-hearing employees are an asset to our organization and an excellent example for all of us. They are among our most valued employees."

*LEE SHELTON, Senior Vice President,
Bankers Mortgage Corporation, Florence*

"We're very pleased with our partnership with Vocational Rehabilitation. It gives Kohler an opportunity to participate in a worthwhile program to bring handicapped people back into the mainstream of the workforce. It makes good business sense and serves a need in the community."

*CHARLIE NEWCOMB, Communications
Supervisor, Kohler Company, Spartanburg*



"I'm particularly impressed with the spirit of cooperation I've found with Vocational Rehabilitation. They take a businesslike approach to business problems with a complete lack of red tape. This experience can change your attitude toward handicapped people. We at GEMCO look forward to a long association with the Vocational Rehabilitation Department."

GERALD E. MORRIS, GEMCO, Hampton

"We're especially proud of our working contract with the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department and what it's achieved. We at Riegel are able to meet customer demands and Vocational Rehabilitation clients are being paid for their work while gaining experience. To them, it means the pride and dignity which comes from being productive, wage earning members of society."

*ROGER CHASTAIN, Corporate Director of
Consumer Goods, Riegel Textile Corporation*

From Dependence . . .

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department was successful in placing 8,069 individuals in gainful employment last year. Through the services provided by the Department, a number of problems were dealt with, ultimately making these people suitable for employment.



Of those rehabilitated last year 57% were male; 56.7% white; 43% black and .3% other.

At the time their rehabilitation services began:

16.2% were in tax supported institutions

57.6% were dependent on family and friends for a living

84.5% were unemployed

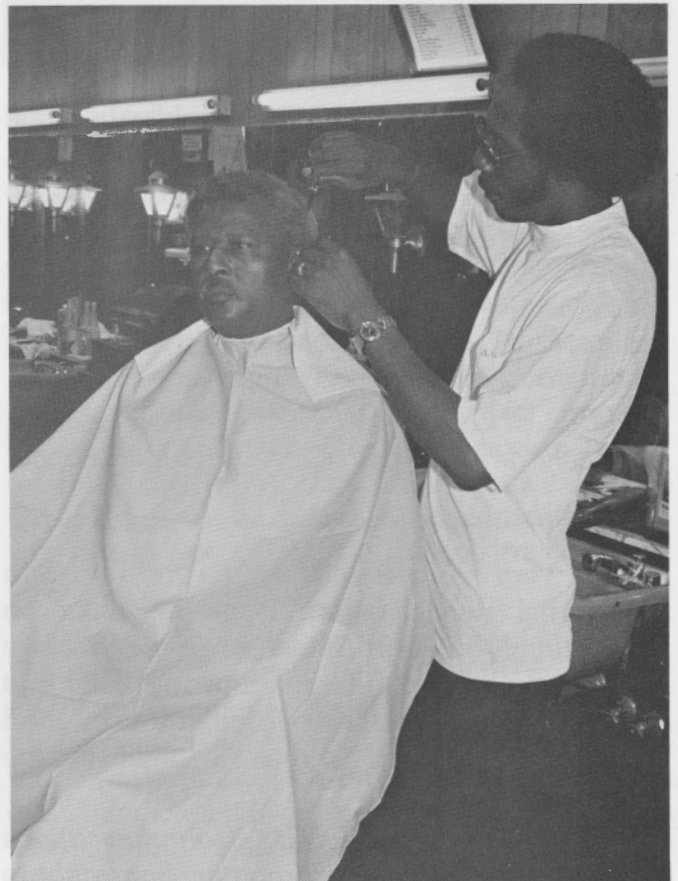
The majority of those placed in employment are likely to have many years of self-sufficiency ahead of them:

25.7% were under 20 years old

40.3% were 20-34 years old

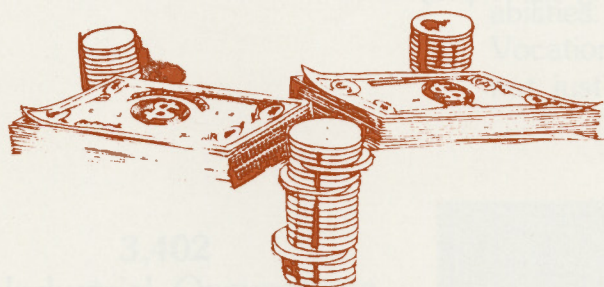
17.2% were 35-44 years old

16.2% were 45-64 years old



. . . To Independence

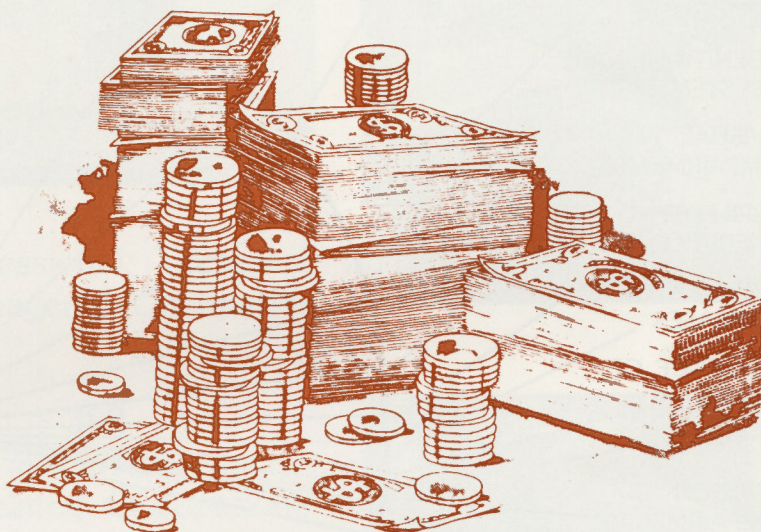
The 8,069 rehabilitants increased their annual rate of earnings from \$7,208,522 before rehabilitation to \$55,209,389 after rehabilitation — a net increase of 665% as a result of rehabilitation services.



\$7,208,522

**Annual Earnings
BEFORE
Rehabilitation**

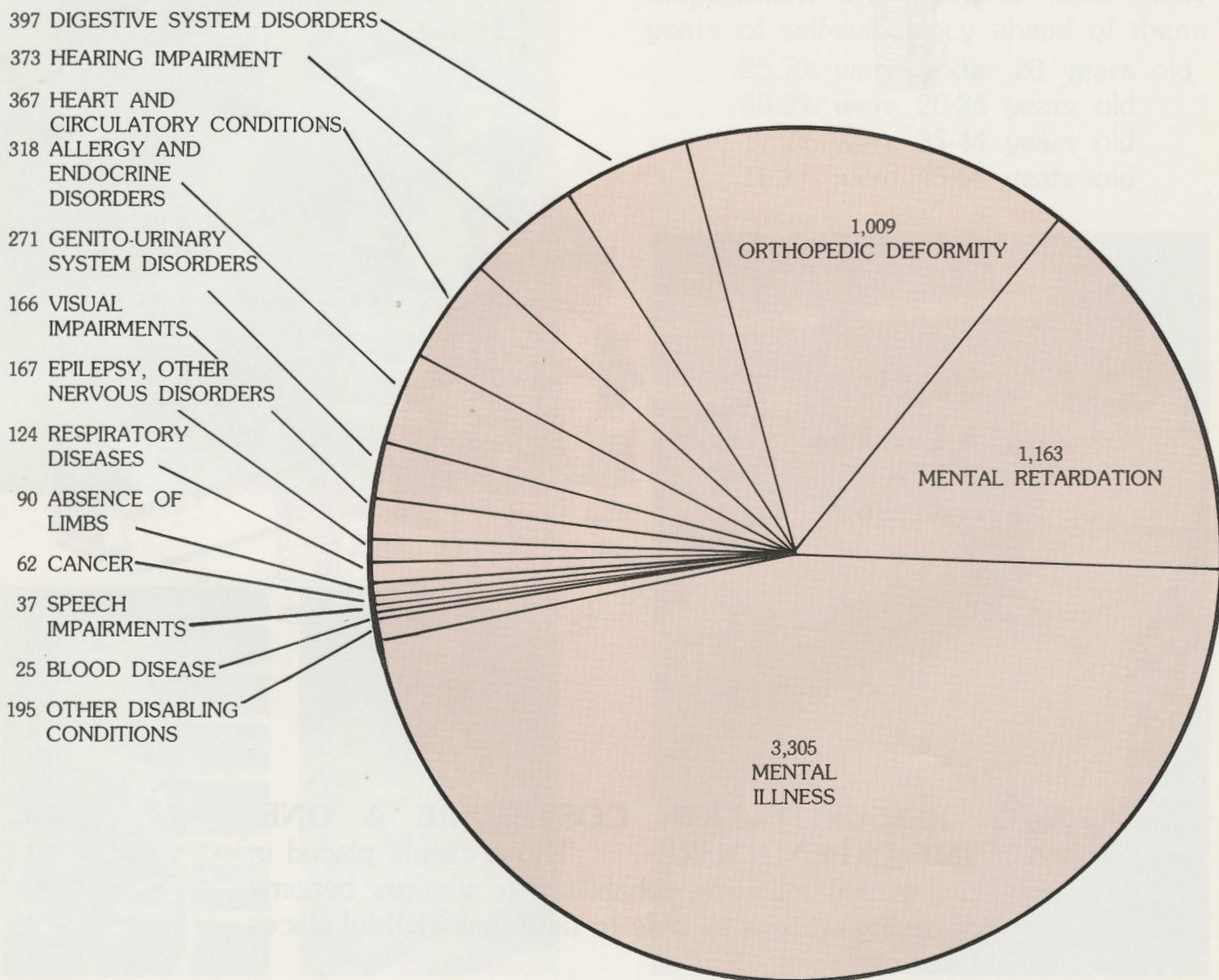
\$55,209,389
**Annual Earnings
AFTER
Rehabilitation**



REHABILITATION COSTS ARE A ONE-TIME EXPENDITURE . . . Those clients placed in employment following rehabilitation services become tax-paying citizens — able to take their rightful places in society.

Types of Disabilities

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department assists individuals with a wide variety of disabling conditions, both physical and mental, in preparing for suitable occupations. Vocational Rehabilitation services are provided to a number of individuals with obvious physical limitations as well as those with internal problems such as heart, kidney or digestive system disorders, for example. Others may be handicapped by mental retardation, but not so much so that they are unable to perform some sort of work. The greatest proportion of clients under Vocational Rehabilitation programs, however, are handicapped by mental illness, for which they may need treatment prior to returning to work. The scope and extent of Vocational Rehabilitation services which an individual receives is designed to minimize the limitations placed on that person by his disability, ultimately resulting in employment.

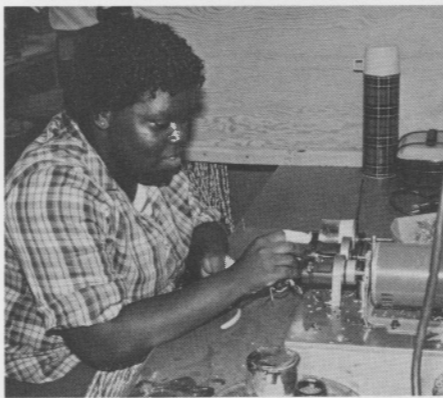


A Variety of Jobs

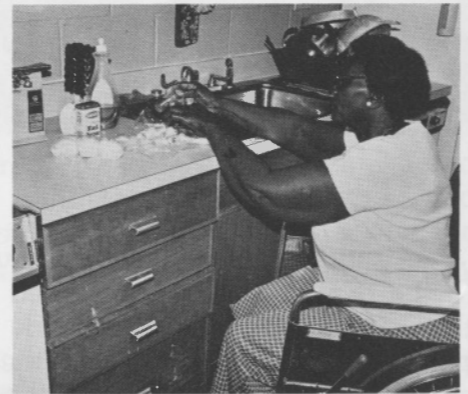
The Vocational Rehabilitation program is vocationally oriented and geared toward developing skills and work habits needed by handicapped individuals to obtain jobs in the competitive market. Placement in employment is the ultimate goal of rehabilitation, and a disabled person is not considered successfully rehabilitated until he is employed.

A particular disability may make certain jobs impossible for a handicapped person, but vocational rehabilitation assists the individual in finding employment in keeping with his interest and abilities. Each job placement is made on an individual basis. The Vocational Rehabilitation staff are specialists in job matching, not just job placement.

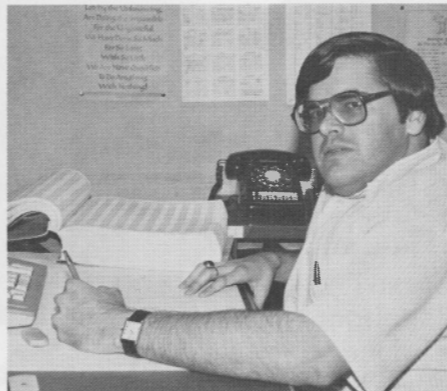
3,402
in Industrial Occupations



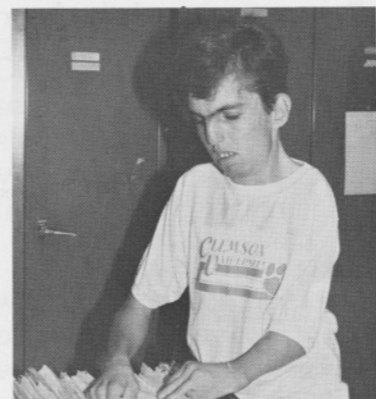
691
in Special Occupations



486
in Professional, Technical
and Managerial Occupations



382
in Farming
and Related Occupations

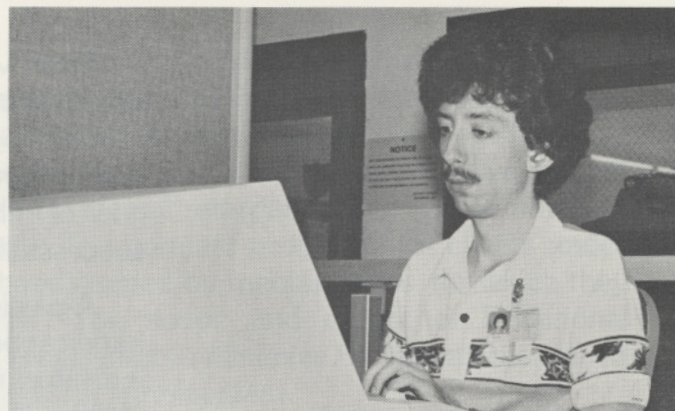
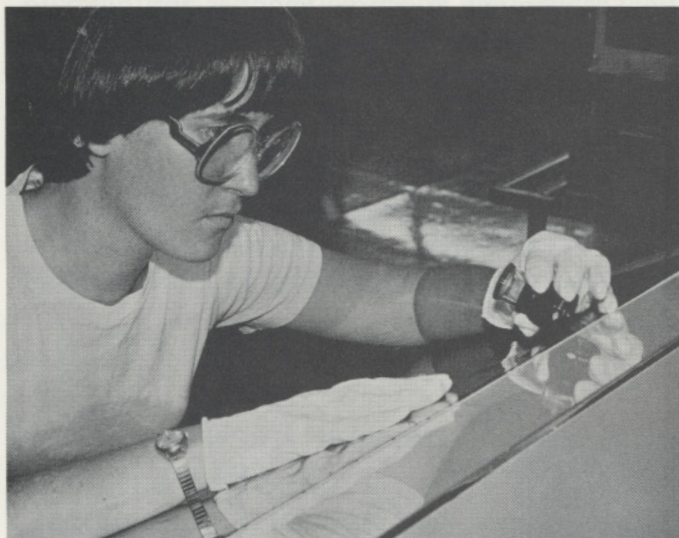


1,075
in Clerical and Sales
Occupations



2,033
in Service
Occupations

The Deaf and Hearing Impaired



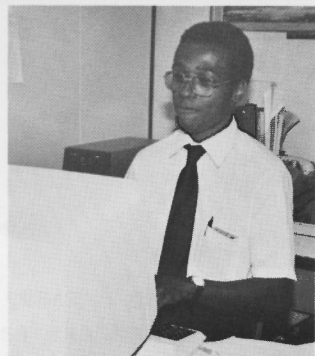
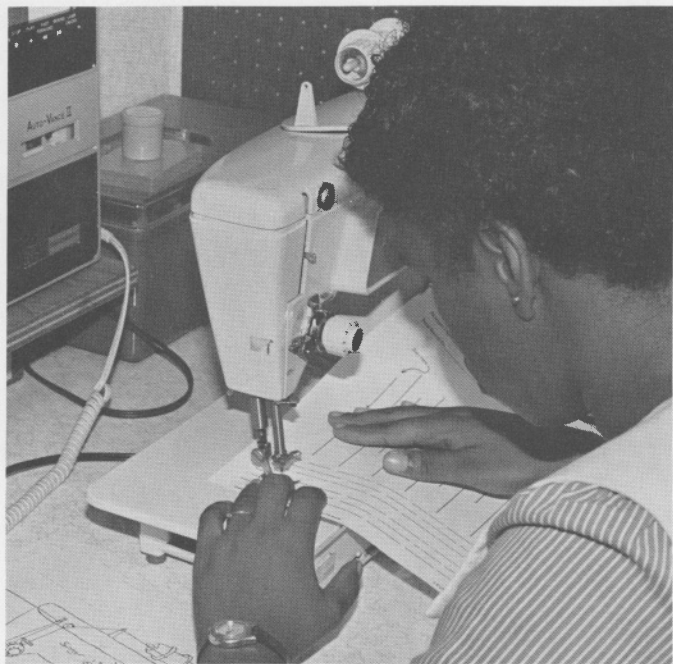
Vocational Rehabilitation provides services to the deaf and hearing impaired population of the state through a network of specialty personnel located throughout the state. Counselors in strategic locations of the state provide rehabilitation services to all hearing impaired clients.

In addition, there are several facilities in the state which serve those with hearing impairments. The Adult Deaf Evaluation and Training Center, operated in cooperation with the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School in West Columbia, has increased the size and is serving severely disabled deaf individuals across the state. The Vocational Rehabilitation facility located on campus and operated in cooperation with the South Carolina School for the Deaf continues to work with deaf students while they are attending Cedar Spring. Upon graduation the students are transferred to their respective home areas and services are continued until completion by the specialty counselors.

A continued effort is being made to provide adequate services through the local speech and hearing centers throughout the state, as well as with the medical community. Also, more involvement with the deaf community and their organizations has continued to provide a channel of communication between the Vocational Rehabilitation Department and the hearing impaired population.

	Served	Rehabilitated
Deafness, Pre-Lingual	503	80
Deafness, Pre-Vocational	61	13
Deafness, Post-Vocational . . .	17	4
Hard of Hearing, Pre-Lingual	222	47
Hard of Hearing, Pre-Vocational	288	74
Hard of Hearing, Post-		
Vocational	422	155
	1,513	373

Public School and Youth Programs



Rehabilitation services are provided to eligible physically, mentally and emotionally handicapped students in the secondary schools through the Department's public school programs. The programs operate through agreements with the State Department of Education and numerous local school districts throughout the state.

The Department also cooperates with the Department of Youth Services in providing services to youth under their supervision. This effort has, in many areas, resulted in the use of Vocational Rehabilitation services as an alternative to incarceration.

The Department has established 16 satellite workshops which operate within existing VR-PS programs. This work component has provided valuable work experience as well as monetary compensation in a competitive production environment as a part of the student's overall curriculum. Students also receive Carnegie units for their participation in the work adjustment program.

There were 12,232 physically, mentally and emotionally handicapped students served through the public school programs across the state last year, of whom 1,675 were successfully rehabilitated.

There are VR-PS programs located in the following areas:

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Abbeville | Greenville |
| Aiken | Greenwood |
| Anderson | Lancaster |
| Batesburg | Laurens |
| Beaufort | Lexington |
| Bennettsville | Newberry |
| Brookland-Cayce | Oconee |
| Camden | Orangeburg |
| Campobello | Pickens |
| Charleston | Rock Hill |
| Cherokee | Spartanburg |
| Chester | Spring Valley |
| Columbia | Summerville |
| Conway | Sumter |
| Dillon | Union |
| Florence | Walterboro |
| Georgetown | Westside |
| Graniteville | (Spartanburg) |
| | York |

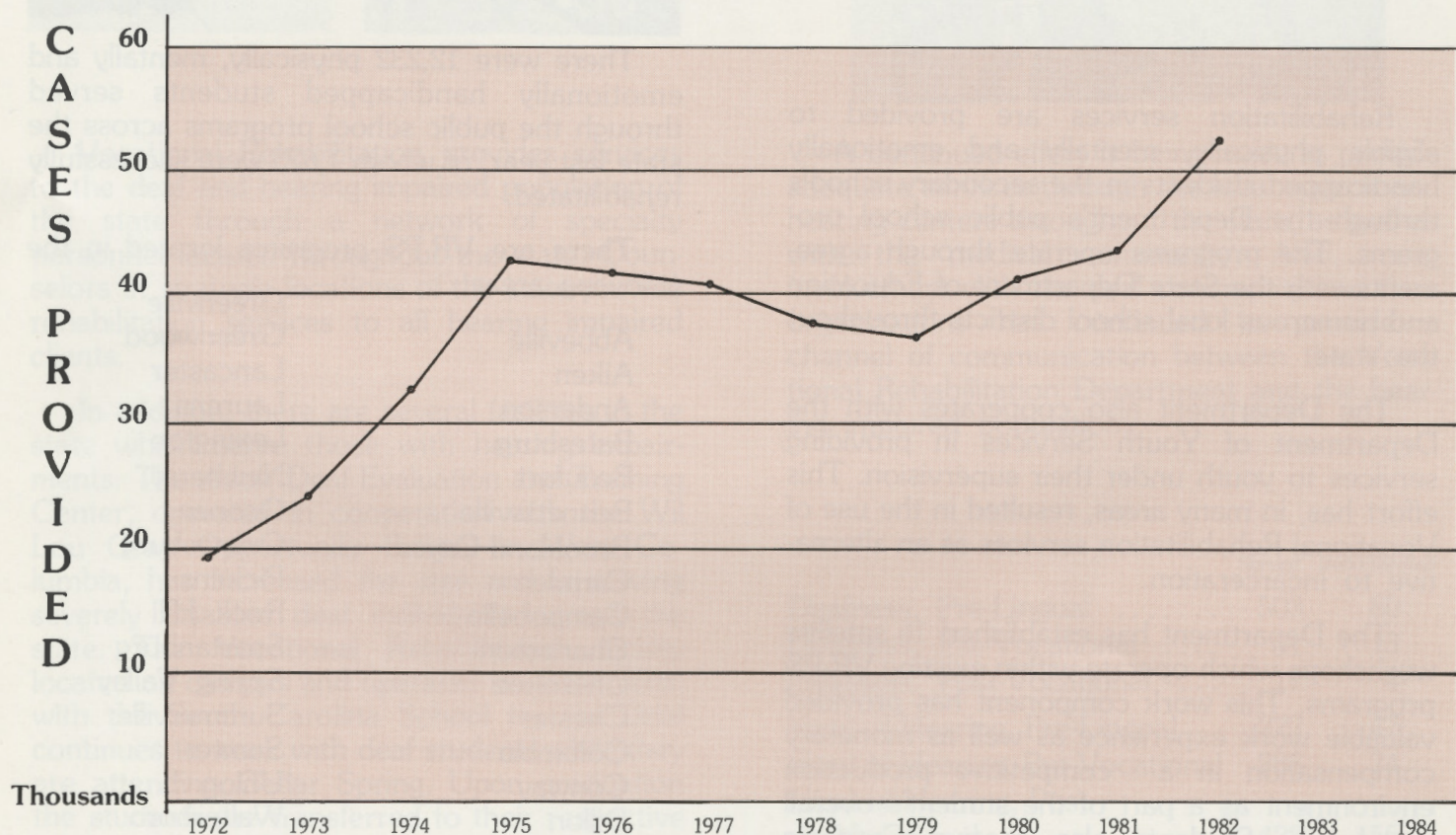
Disability Determination Division

The Disability Determination Division of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department is responsible for processing claims for disability benefits under the provisions of the Social Security Act and the Supplemental Security Income Program. The Division is decentralized with operations conducted in Greenville, Columbia, and Charleston. Benefits from these programs are paid to individuals unable to work because of a mental or physical impairment. Payments will continue as long as the person's impairment prevents any substantial gainful work activity.

The disability decisions are made jointly by a "team" consisting of a disability examiner and physician. These professional personnel are trained in the evaluation of medical and vocational factors under the requirements of the Social Security law.

The Disability Determination Division processes initial determinations for benefits, continuing disability investigations, and appeals of adverse determinations (reconsiderations). Claims connected with the South Carolina Homestead Exemption Act are also processed by a special unit in the Columbia Office.

Disability Decisions Made

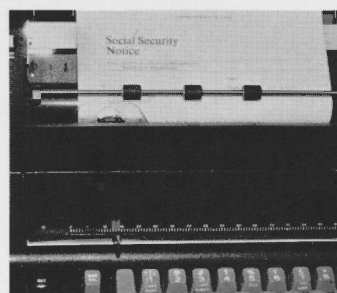




The Division processed 54,336 claims in 1981-1982. The quality production and efficiency goals for processing claims, as established by Congress, were consistently met or exceeded.

The Social Security definition of disability is considered to be a strict definition, which only the severely disabled can meet. Partial disability, while recognized in many other benefit programs, is not sufficient for a person to qualify for Social Security Disability benefits. Reports by Social Security and the General Accounting Office estimated that benefits were paid annually to many individuals who did not meet the Social Security definition of disability. As a result, the 1980 Social Security Amendments required that all disability claims be reviewed periodically to determine if the individuals are still eligible for disability benefits. In FY 1982, approximately 520,000 cases were reviewed nationwide and there is a projected nationwide review of 750,000 cases for FY 1983.

The new law recognizes that many advances in medical science and rehabilitation techniques in the past 25 years enable an increasing number of people to return to work after serious accidents and illnesses. New methods of evaluating an individual's functional ability have



been developed in recent years. A person found disabled under earlier less exact criteria may now be considered not disabled under newer, more precise testing methods. If a case review demonstrates that an individual is no longer eligible for disability payments, benefits are terminated. The individual, of course, has the right to appeal any decision made in his case.

A large number of former recipients have received services through the Vocational Rehabilitation Department and are now employed. Because of a large number of reevaluations by the Social Security Administration, it is expected that Vocational Rehabilitation will continue to receive a larger number of referrals of disabled individuals who are not prepared to go directly into the work force. The employment of these people would mean a significant savings in government spending, but more importantly, the individuals would gain personal satisfaction as a result of their reentry into the mainstream of society. The funding for rehabilitation of Social Security beneficiaries was discontinued by the 1980 Amendments and the future of special funding for these individuals is presently unclear.

Vocational Rehabilitation Department

Dollars . . .



**For Services To
Individuals**

\$23,797,969

or

94.7%

For Administration

\$1,332,356

or

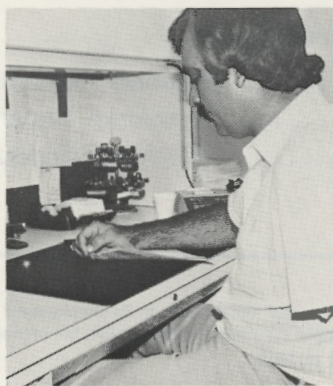
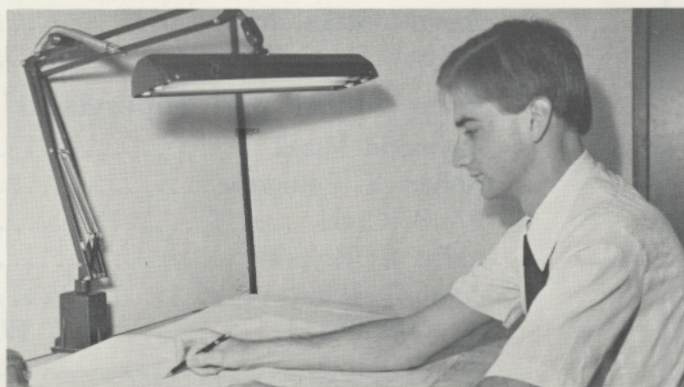
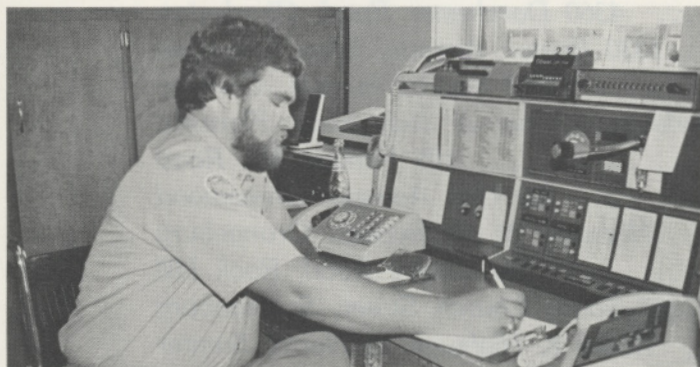
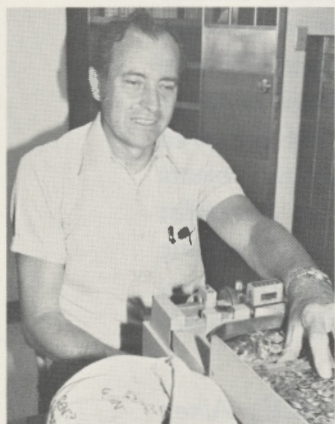
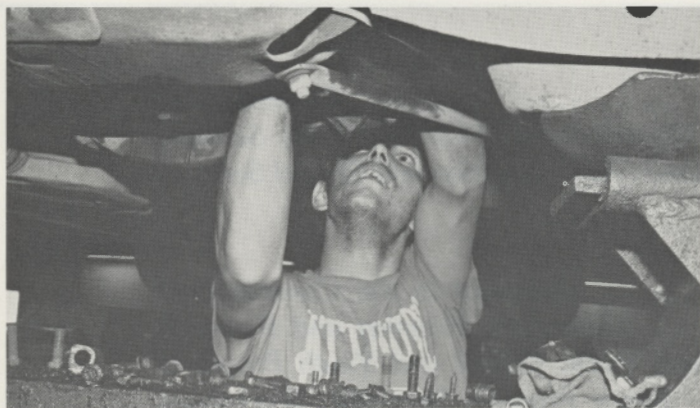
5.3%

Expenditure for the basic Vocational Rehabilitation program during 1982 totaled \$25,130,325. Of this amount \$23,797,969, or 94.7% was for services to individuals, and \$1,332,356, or 5.3% for administration of the program. These figures do not include expenditure for the Disability Determination Division, CETA, work activity center programs, and other special projects.

. . . And Sense

Through the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department, many individuals who have had difficulty with employment receive the services they need to help them in their preparation for employment in the community. For those who may never have worked because of a handicap, vocational rehabilitation services can mean a new outlook on life through employment and self-sufficiency. For those who may have had to terminate one occupation because of a disability, the services may mean opening doors to a new occupation. But with an occupation comes self-sufficiency and independence — human dignity for all those who participate.

They Work At Many Jobs . . .



SOUTH CAROLINA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT

Joe S. Dusenbury Commissioner
Robert E. Brabham, Ph.D. Assistant Commissioner, Field and Case Services
T. E. Ringer, Jr. ... Assistant Commissioner, Administration and Special Services

State Office

P. Charles LaRosa, Jr. Assistant to the Commissioner
Charles S. Chandler, Ph.D. Supervisor, Planning and Research
Thomas C. Hadwin Supervisor, Public School and Youth Programs
William Leitner Senior Program Specialist, Workshops
Vincent Rhodes, Jr. Supervisor, Statewide Facilities
Raynold Stoudemayer Supervisor, Rehabilitation Services
Richard A. Vandiver Director, Disability Determination Division
Allen T. Gantt Personnel Director
Larry M. Harrelson . Senior Program Specialist, Deaf and Hearing Impaired
Peter B. Howell Program Specialist, Special Projects
Lyn D. Johnson Public Information Specialist
Edward H. McMillion Director of Staff Development and Training
Ben N. Miller, M.D. Medical Consultant
Preston H. Coleman Audit Supervisor

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Robert E. Pettigrew 212 McGee Road, Anderson
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Larry C. Bryant 1330 Boston Avenue, West Columbia
John C. Winn 3009 Fourth Avenue, Conway
B. Keith Floyd W. Darlington Street at Jody Road, Florence
O. D. Parker 105 Parkins Mill Road
W. H. Turnley 109 Oak Avenue, Greenwood
John A. Lybrand Highway 21-178 Bypass, Orangeburg
H. Wehman Sieling 756 Cherry Road, Rock Hill
C. Martin Isetts 353 South Church Street, Spartanburg
Emmett W. Tolson, Jr. Route 8, Highway 15 North, Sumter
William B. Rogers Colleton County Industrial Park, Walterboro

Disability Determination Regional Offices

F. Howard Hall Regional Supervisor, Charleston
Frank G. Honea, Jr. Regional Supervisor, Columbia
Rex. L. Salley, Jr. Regional Supervisor, Greenville

